

Active 35mm slides, 8 Nov 94
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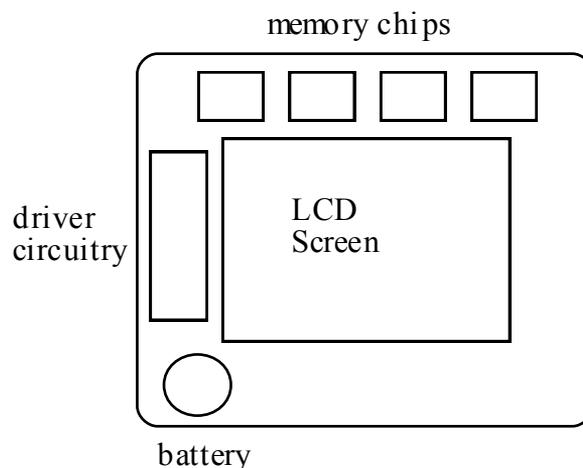
This invention was probably independently invented by any number of IT companies. LCD projectors weren't around that early, but they arrived not very long afterwards so certainly the idea of using LCDs to make the image for projection was shared by many IT companies. However, the idea of doing so as a hybrid between 35mm projection and LCD was a good one at the time since 35mm slides were pretty much the standard for doing presentations then. PowerPoint projectors dominated later.

Active slide 35mm video system

The concept is of a 35mm slide allowing incorporate of video into a 35mm presentation using either a standard or a modified projector.

Using a 35mm LCD screen as the picture area of the slide, the video could be displayed using the slide itself. Complete portability requires screen driver circuitry and power supply in the mount too. LCD screens which retain the picture after power off are under development, so that a user could see a still from the video to prepare the presentation sequence.

The area of the mount on a 35mm slide is quite adequate to house sufficient data for several seconds of video. At 1.5Mbits/s, 10 seconds needs 2MBytes of memory (£50). The total cost of a slide would be < £100 if built today, but could fall to £10-20 with volume in a short time.



Variations

1) Video storage could be optical (e.g. high density optical paper storage), with the projection unit reading the data, generating and projecting the video. This gives a low incremental slide cost but requires special readers and writers for the high density data and an external screen. It does not allow slide re-usability but the low cost removes the need for this.

2) Alternatively, with an LCD slide, storage could be RAM or FRAM based, chips embedded in the mount. Obviously, such slides could be re-usable for subsequent presentations, with video clips or stills downloaded from computer.

3) Any or all of power supply, driver circuitry or LCD screen could all be external, with just the data on slide. This option gives the convenience of presentation flexibility, with video clips on individual slides, but with a sophisticated projection system required. A video projector is thus needed, the slides merely add convenience. Such slides could still usefully incorporate stills but at significant cost.

4) Power for the slide could come from photocells, using the projector light.

Ian D Pearson 8/11/94